

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 2143

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, PINT, CH, GW

SUBJ: CDU POLITICIANS' VISIT TO PRC

REF: A. PEKING 0294, B. BONN 03018

1. AT A LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 25 WITH FRG CONGEN DPO KARL SPALCKE AND GERMAN EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR FROM PEKING, GEERT-HINRICH AHRENS, THE LATTER OFFERED SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THE VISIT TO THE PRC BY CDU POLITICIANS MARX AND DREGGER (REFTEL A). THE FOLLOWING WERE THE PRINCIPAL POINTS OF INTEREST.

2. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN INNER MONGOLIA
AHRENS SAID THAT THE DELEGATION WAS NOT IMPRESSED BY THE UNDERGROUND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OBSERVED IN INNER MONGOLIA. HE DESCRIBED ONE UNDERGROUND TUNNEL AT YIN SHAN
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AS ABOUT A MILE LONG WITH PERIODIC MOUNDS FROM WHICH WEAPONS COULD BE FIRED. THE GROUP NOTED THAT THE TUNNEL HAD NO

BLAST DOORS ALONG ITS ROUTE AND WAS COMPLETELY STRAIGHT, MAKING IT VULNERABLE TO BLAST EFFECT. THE DELEGATION WAS GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TUNNEL WAS FOR PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS, BUT GIVEN ITS CONSTRUCTION, THEY CONCLUDED IT MORE LIKELY TO BE USED FOR RAPID MOVEMENT OF TROOPS INTO A FORWARD POSITION. THE GROUP WAS TAKEN TO VISIT THE SIXTH ARMORED DIVISION, THE SAME UNIT VISITED BY THE SWEDISH CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF. (WE DO NOT CARRY AN ARMORED DIVISION IN INNER MONGOLIA AND THE REFERENCE COULD HAVE BEEN TO AN ARMORED REGIMENT.) AHRENS SAID THE DELEGATION SHARED THE LOW ESTIMATE OF EFFECTIVENESS REACHED BY THE SWEDES. OF THE TANKS THEY SAW, ALL WERE PROBABLY OF LATE 1950'S DESIGN IN THE T-54 CATEGORY, PROBABLY THE CHINESE T-59.

3. DISAPPEARING MONGOLIANS

AHRENS SAID THAT THE MONGOLIAN POPULATION OF INNER MONGOLIA HAS NEARLY BEEN SWALLOWED BY HAN CHINESE. OF A POPULATION OF NINE MILLION, THE GROUP WAS TOLD ONLY FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND ARE ETHNIC MONGOLIANS. WHILE SIGNS WERE PRINTED IN BOTH CHINESE AND MONGOLIAN IN HUHEHOT, OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL ALL SIGNS WERE IN CHINESE ONLY.

4. MEETING WITH HUA KUO-FENG

AHRENS DESCRIBED HUA AS CONFIDENT AND WELL BRIEFED. HUA WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING SOVIET INTENTIONS AND FRG/PRC BILATERAL RELATIONS ON WHICH HE WAS VERY UP TO DATE AND SPECIFIC. IN ADDITION TO THE COMMENTS ON THE SOVIET UNION REPORTED REFTEL A, HUA AGAIN TOOK UP THE THEME OF YUGOSLAVIA IN THE POST-TITO PERIOD, A FAVORITE CHINESE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WITH RIGHT-WING, EUROPEAN POLITICIANS. HUA WAS INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT THE UNITED STATES' REACTION TO A SOVIET INVASION OF YUGOSLAVIA WOULD BE AND INDICATED THAT IF THE UNITED STATES DID NOT SHOW CLEAR RESOLVE, THE SOVIETS WOULD TAKE OVER YUGOSLAVIA AND THEN TURN ON AN ISOLATED ALBANIA. THE GERMANS CAME AWAY FROM THE MEETING WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CHINESE FEARED THE SOVIETS, SHOULD THEY BE ABLE TO THUS SECURE THEIR EAST EUROPEAN FLANK, MIGHT THEN TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO THE EAST.

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5. SHANGHAI MEETING

DURING A MEETING WITH A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU OF THE SHANGHAI REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, ONE OF THE DELEGATION MEMBERS RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHY THE GROUP ALWAYS SEEMED TO MEET WITH VICE CHAIRMEN AND NOT CHAIRMEN. THE PRC SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT THE SHANGHAI REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WAS CHANG CHUN-CHIAO, WHOSE RESPONSIBILITIES NOW KEPT HIM PERMANENTLY IN PEKING. HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE FOUR OTHER SHANGHAI VICE CHAIRMEN WHOSE DUTIES REQUIRED THEIR PRESENCE IN PEKING. ASKED WHO THESE FOUR VICE CHAIRMEN WERE,

HE MENTIONED WANG HUNG-WEN, YAO WEN-YUAN, AND TWO OTHERS
WHOSE NAMES AHRENS COULD NOT REMEMBER, ONE A FIGURE IN SHANGHAI
WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, AND THE SECOND A LEADING LABOR FIGURE.
(COMMENT: FROM APPEARANCE RECORDS, WE SUSPECT THAT THE OTHER
TWO INDIVIDUALS ARE CHIN TSU-MIN AND YANG FU-CHEN (F),
BOTH OF WHOM ARE ALSO VICE CHAIRMEN OF THE SHANGHAI TRADE
UNION COUNCIL.)

6. POSTER OBSERVATIONS IN HUHEHOT

AHRENS SAID HE HAD OBSERVED BIG CHARACTER POSTERS IN HUHEHOT,
BUT HAD BEEN WHISKED AWAY TOO QUICKLY TO READ THEM IN DETAIL.
HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WERE CLEARLY CONCERNED WITH THE
CURRENT IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN.
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